

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to George Sanders, October 25, 1899

October 25, 1899. Mr. George Sanders, Philadelphia, Pa. My dear George:—

I am sorry you are having trouble financially, and I wish I could feel that I was in a position to help you out, but I can't do any more for you than I have been doing for the last few years. Of course, your accepting Mr. Booth's proposition to go to Philadelphia on account of work for the American Association to Promote the Teaching of Speech to the Deaf does not relieve me, for your salary comes out of my pocket just the same as it did before, only now it comes via Mr. Booth and the American Association.

When you wrote to me for a loan of two hundred dollars I would gladly have sent you the money — not as a loan but as a gift — but I did not feel that I could afford to do so at that time, because I had bills to pay, and you know people must pay their own debts before they can feel free to give money to others. I was in hopes that I might be able to give you two hundred dollars about this time, but after talking the matter over with Mrs. Bell we have decided that it is not right for us to do so, and that we can't afford it. We can't afford to send you more than one hundred dollars.

I enclose a cheque for this amount, not as a loan but as a gift, and I hope this will enable you to get along.

With kind regards, Yours sincerely, Alexander Graham Bell